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Make the most of where you live

COMPLIMENTARY TO THE READERS OF THE TIMES OF INDIA IN ULHASNAGAR, AMBERNATH AND BADLAPUR

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Classical couple brightens Gaurav Divas

CHM College Ulhasnagar, celebrated *Gaurav Divas* last Thursday in the presence of the inimitable classical vocalist pair of *Sangeet Samragni Padma Shree* Begum Parveen Sultana and her guru and husband *Sangeet Martand Ustad* Dilshad Khan, who were felicitated at the event. The college has been celebrating Republic Day as *Gaurav Divas* for the last three years. In the past Shri Ravindra Jain and *Padamshree* Ustad Zakir Hussain have been felicitated on the same dias.

The couple has performed at more than 10,000 concerts in India and abroad. Parveen Sultana has been bestowed with titles such as *Cleopatra of Music* and *Gandharva Kalanidhi* in the past. She was the youngest ever recipient of the Padamshree when she won the honour in 1976. She was also crowned as the *Sangeet Samragni* by the government of Assam whereas Ustad Dilshadji has been conferred the honour of *Sangeet Martand* by the government of Harayana. He was also honoured by the Sur Shingar Sansad, Mumbai. The celebration commenced as the Ustad garlanded a bust of Mahatma Gandhi. Students, professors, and other dignitaries of the city paid homage to the father of the nation by observing silence for two minutes. The classical singers then lit the ceremonial lamp.

Principal, Dinesh Panjwani emphasised the aim of the *Gurav Divas* as an initiative to motivate students to set an example for the nation and become the future torchbearers. Later the principal presented a *Manpatra* to the guests as a gesture of the college's respect and warmth.

"I will remember this day and the award forever," said an emotional Dilshadji after receiving the Manpatra and the award. On the other hand, Sultana slipped into nostalgia, reminiscing about her college days. Taking pride in her Indian heritage, she appealed the students to retain their Indian culture irrespective of which part of the world they would be in. She concluded by singing *Hume tumse pyaar kitna.*

PARVEEN SULTANA IN AN EXCLUSIVE TETE-A-TETE WITH DK+

■ **You were trained in Patiala and Kirana Gharana, but today your singing is not confined to either, so do you believe in the Gharana discipline?**

Gharana is the root, it's like a mother but I experiment with styles to create my own identity.

■ **What is your dream?**

Many. I want to train our next generation in music. I want to provide them with a platform and strengthen our tradition of *guru-shishya.*

■ **Dilshad saab is also your guru and he thinks of you as an excellent shishya. So what makes a good student?**

Qualities like dedication, devotion, religious practice, sadhna. Practice makes a man perfect.

Local lads honoured as best managers